

Washington, D.C. – As the Senate continues to work on its version of the Economic Stimulus package, Rep. Charlie Wilson (OH-6) and seven other Congressmen asked the Senate to be sure it included benefits for seniors whose only income is social security.

The current plan requires that citizens have ‘earned income’ before they qualify for a tax rebate under the economic stimulus plan.

“I know there are seniors in Ohio’s Sixth District who rely solely on social security. They should not be left out of the stimulus package simply because they don’t have earned income, as the current plan requires,” Rep. Wilson said. “I’m hopeful that the Senate can craft a solution that will pass the House and that the President will sign it. People are hungry for this help.”

The letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell follows.

February 1, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader Senate Minority Leader
528 Hart Senate Office Bldg. 361-A Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

As you are no doubt aware, the United States Senate will soon take up bipartisan legislation to stimulate our nation’s slowing economy. In advance of these actions, we would like to take this opportunity to respectfully request that you take steps to ensure that the stimulus package includes cash benefits for those citizens whose only source of income is Social Security.

We applaud President Bush, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and House Minority Leader John Boehner for quickly coming to an agreement to stimulate the economy through House legislation that is timely, targeted, and temporary. In our view, however, the final version of this important legislation should include provisions that allow low-income seniors and disabled individuals a much-needed cash rebate. Unfortunately, we were not able to make this important change when the House considered the stimulus legislation.

Our country's seniors and disabled individuals are facing difficult economic times. These Americans have been particularly harmed by ever-increasing health care costs. Moreover, many seniors and disabled individuals are on fixed incomes and rely heavily, if not entirely, on their monthly Social Security checks. For years, these men and women have been forced to survive on less and less as their costs continue to increase and their incomes remain the same.

These Americans need cash rebates just as much as the individuals currently included in the House stimulus package. As such, we once again respectfully request that you support the inclusion of low-income seniors and the disabled in the Senate version of the economic stimulus package.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to continuing to work with you.